

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claim 1 was objected to.

Claim 1 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Breglia.

At the same time it was indicated that claims 2-11 were not rejected over the art.

Also, the Examiner indicated that a copy of reference numeral ~~02~~-103846A has not been received.

In connection with the Examiner's comments to the reference, a copy of the reference has been submitted herewith.

Claim 1 has been amended in compliance with the Examiner's objections.

After carefully considering the Examiner's grounds for the rejection of the claims over the art and the Examiner's indication of the

allowability of the claims, which indication has been gratefully acknowledged, applicants have amended claim 1 by introducing into them the features of the allowable claim 2. Therefore, it is believed that claim 1 should now be in allowable condition.

All other dependent claims have been retained or amended to depend on claim 1 as amended. Since they share the allowable features of claim 1, they should be also considered as being in allowable condition.

At the same time the applicant's amended the specification to provide corresponding headings and to eliminate references to the claims, which is not permitted in accordance with the U.S. Patent Practice.

Reference numerals have been removed from the claims and the abstract, and the claims have been amended to replace the expression "characterized in that" with the acceptable expression -- wherein --.

It is believed that the present application should be promptly allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



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